

Amendments to the Claims:

1. **(original)** A hydraulic tensioner comprising a cylinder having a hollow space filled with hydraulic oil, a plunger slidably mounted in the hollow space of said cylinder so as to partition said hollow space into a pressure chamber and a reservoir chamber, a pushrod mounted in said hollow space so as to be axially movable together with said plunger with one end thereof protruding from said cylinder, a spring mounted in said hollow space of said cylinder so as to bias said plunger and said pushrod outwardly of said cylinder, said plunger being formed with a passage through which said pressure chamber and said reservoir chamber communicate with each other, said passage being formed with a valve seat, and a check ball mounted so as to be moved into and out of contact with said valve seat, said check ball being adapted to contact said valve seat when the pressure in said pressure chamber exceeds the pressure in said reservoir chamber, whereby closing said passage, characterized in that said valve seat is formed of a steel for carburizing and has a surface carbon concentration of 0.55-0.75% after heat treatment.

2. **(original)** A hydraulic tensioner comprising a housing formed with a cylinder chamber, a plunger slidably mounted in said cylinder chamber, a pressure chamber defined in said cylinder chamber behind said plunger, a spring mounted in said cylinder chamber for biasing said plunger outwardly of said cylinder chamber, said housing being formed with an oil supply passage so as to communicate with said pressure chamber, and a check valve for preventing hydraulic oil in said pressure chamber from flowing back into said oil supply passage, said check valve comprising a valve seat formed near an outlet end of said oil supply passage, characterized in that said valve seat is formed of a steel for carburizing and has a surface carbon concentration of 0.55-0.75% after heat treatment.

3. **(currently amended)** A hydraulic tensioner as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein said valve seat has a surface hardness Hv of not less than 800.

4. **(new)** A hydraulic tensioner as claimed in claim 2 wherein said valve seat has a surface hardness Hv of not less than 800.